

Watershed Oversight Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Alamance Ag Center

209 N. Graham- Hopedale Road, Burlington, N. C.

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 pm

Minutes

Member attendees: Frank Bell, Anne Coan, Catherine Deininger, Lynn Featherstone, Julie Henshaw, Janet MacFall, Jason Robinson , Melissa Rooney, Robin Watson,

Guests: Millie Langley, Kevin Moore, Phil Ross, Amanda Sand

1. Trading memo

Jason Robinson provided an update on the development of a memo describing the process of approving trades in the Jordan Lake Watershed. The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) will distribute a memo within two weeks. A subcommittee of the WOC will meet remotely to discuss this memo and draft a response to items requested in the memo. The subcommittee will present a draft response at a future WOC meeting contingent on when the draft trading memo is received. The goal is to have this memo finalized by July. Representatives to serve on this workgroup include Janet, Robin, Jason, Julie, Anne, Lynn, and Catherine.

2. Fertilizer Management Rule trainings

Jason Robinson provided an update on the trainings held for the fertilizer management. To date, DWQ has received 914 registration forms, and not all meetings have submitted registration forms yet. The breakdown of the attendees is as follows: 301 farmers, 24 commercial farm applicators, and 609 turf applicators. 127 people have pursued the online training option; 52 farmers and 75 turf applicators. Not all participants completed the online training, but NCSU will be contacting those that did not complete the online training directly.

The WOC posed the following questions for DWQ :

- Will continuing training opportunities be available for new operators?

- Will all attendees receive a certificate? Not all in person trainings provided a certificate of completion.

3. Baseline accounting status:

Julie Henshaw provided a status of the baseline accounting process. Districts are working on data collection, and several have already finished their accounting. Based on district questions, the following questions were asked:

- a. Can 1998 GIS data serve as the baseline for buffer data?

Janet moves that 1998 be used as the baseline year for buffers. Robin seconded. By consensus, the committee approved this data for use in baseline accounting for buffers.

- b. Should there be a minimum acreage threshold for reporting of crop acres?

Each district will bring back data from their referenced sources and the group will review to see if guidance should be given for future years' data collection.

- c. Should ponds be included in buffer analysis?

The WOC recommends that the study *Delineating Agriculture in the Lake Jordan River Basin* be reviewed to see what data was used for hydrology and if ponds were included in this study. The WOC felt that in-line ponds should be included in the buffer analysis, but not ponds that are not directed connected in-line to the hydrology.

- d. When is land considered developed?

Each county will document the definition used to determine when land was no longer reported under the agriculture rule. The WOC will review the definitions and see if a consistent one can or should be developed for future years' data collection.

4. Next meeting dates:

- a. **Friday, May 4th: 1:30-3:30 through Teleconference/webinar.** Details to be sent by email and posted to the website. For those who would like to meet in person, Janet MacFall will arrange for a group to call and login from the Powell House at Elon University.
- b. **Tuesday, May 15th: 1:30-3:30 at the Alamance Agriculture Center, 209 N. Graham-Hopedale Road in Burlington.**
- c. **Tuesday, June 5th: 1:30-3:30 at the Powell House at Elon University.**

5. Adjourn